

from the illuminating instrument 7 is reflected by a beam splitter 71 to the scanning module 73, which contains a cardan-suspended scanning mirror 75 that guides the light beam 29 through the microscope lens 77 and over or through the object 79. In the case of non-transparent objects, the illumination light beam 29 is guided over the object surface. In the case of biological objects or transparent objects, the illumination light beam 29 can also be guided through the object 79. This means that various focal planes of the object 79 are illuminated successively by the illumination light beam 29, and are hence scanned.

In the Claims:

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.121, please substitute for claims 11, 16, and 23, the following rewritten versions of the same claims, as amended. The changes are shown explicitly in the attached "Marked Up Version Showing Changes Made."

11. (Once Amended) Illuminating instrument according to Claim 9, further comprising an instrument for varying the power of a portion of at least one wavelength of the spectrally broadened light.

16. (Once Amended) Illuminating instrument according to Claim 9, wherein the microstructured optical element is an element selected from the group consisting of adjacent glass, plastic material, cavities, cannulas, webs, honeycombs and tubes.

23. (Once Amended) Device according to Claim 21, wherein the device is a device selected from the group consisting of a confocal scanning microscope, a flow cytometer, an endoscope, a chromatograph and a lithography instrument.

Please add the following new claim:

24. (New) An illuminating instrument comprising:

a laser that emits a light beam;

a microstructured optical element that spectrally broadens the light from the laser;

a first optical means for shaping the spectrally broadened light into an illumination light beam; and

a means for adjusting the power or the spectral composition of the spectrally broadened light.
